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Minutes, Sept. 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for September 12, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Parris Kellerman, Doug Greenfield, and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

*We approved the minutes from the July meeting.

Final plans for ABAC booth at Arlington Town Day event, September 17. Jack asked us to wear our TrailLink T-shirts. Jack will be at Town Hall at 7:30 to get the assignment for the location of our booth. The banner and table will have to be in place by 8:00 as the street will be closed at about 8:15. Jack wrote up a schedule for staffing the booth.

Jack told us that Rustem Gode has contributed a free bicycle tune-up that we can give away in a free drawing. We will also have copies of the MAPC bicycling survey flyer. This survey is on-line and we will ask people to fill it out on the web site. We will also be selling bike maps and promoting the bicycling skills classes being offered in Arlington in October.

Update on new informational signs on bikeway in Arlington Center. We thought the signs in the Center were well-implemented. Anne Lusk will take counts to see if the signs are having an effect.

Discussion of ABAC resolution on the Mass Ave corridor project for MassHighway (related to the \$1.6 million Transportation Enhancements project recently approved in the federal transportation bill). The federal transportation bill recently passed in Congress includes money for the Mass Ave redesign project. We will work with Joey and the Planning Department to write a memo in support of this project. The memo should be a page to a page and a half. Jack suggested we mention the missing bikeway connection and the need to improve the bikeway connection in the Center.

Joey told us that the current design does not contain continuous bike lanes. We decided that we must encourage a better design from a bicycling point of view. The memo will be addressed to the TAC and a copy sent to the Director of Planning, Director of Public Works, and the Board of Selectmen.

New project: Bicyclist/pedestrian counts in Arlington Center. Jack handed out forms, designed by Scott Smith, for taking counts of bicycles and pedestrians in the Center. We took some time to discuss filling out the forms and the best times to do the counts.

Discussion of draft report on bikeway safety issues (requested by Board of Selectmen). We discussed the collation of our past discussions on the memo written by Jack. We had no substantive changes to suggest. We will submit edits for clarity to Jack by September 26.

Updates on bicycling to school. Ted told us about a meeting with the new Superintendent of Schools. Jack, Ted, and Lauren Hefferon attended this meeting and each spoke about their primary issues. The Superintendent told them that he favors a pilot project at one school and that he would talk to the principals about this topic later in the year.

ABAC involvement in Bicycling Skills class hosted in Arlington on Oct 14-15. Jack is the co-instructor of this class and asked for volunteers to observe the class and give him some feedback. Stephan volunteered to come to the class on October 14th and possibly on the 15th too.

Brief discussion on chip-sealing pavement on Arlington roads and bicycling issues. We discussed our experiences locally with recently chip-sealed roads. We will try and suggest mitigations to make it less dangerous to ride a bicycle on freshly sealed surfaces. We will revisit this topic at some point in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

*denotes that a vote was taken.

The minutes were taken by Stephan Miller.